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Canada

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For more information please visit: International Scientific Cooperation

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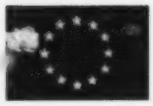
Canada and Brazil Sign an Agreement on Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation

The Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, and Sergio Machado Rezende, Brazil's Minister of Science and Technology, signed the Canada-Brazil Framework Agreement for Cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation on November 17, 2008. The agreement will promote greater collaboration in research and development (R&D) between Brazil and Canada in areas of mutual interest, such as aerospace, agriculture, biotechnology, nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals, information and communications technology, and renewable energy development. Canada and Brazil will each contribute a total of $1.5 million over the next two years toward this agreement. In Canada, the funds will be managed by ISTPCanada, in a similar way than with China and India where researchers from AAFC can only be collaborators. Canada has identified Brazil as a priority market, and Brazil is an important part of Canada's Americas Strategy, a policy of engagement based on the promotion and enhancement of security, prosperity and democratic governance. To view the full document please visit the *Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) website.*

Contact: Johanne Boisvert



Scientific Cooperation Discussions are Going Well with the European Commission!

Since the meeting in Ottawa in 2007 between Christian Paterman and Marc Fortin, progress is encouraging. This is the conclusion reached at the meeting held on October 15, 2008, in Brussels between the International Scientific Cooperation Bureau (ISCB) and managers for Theme 2 (Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology) of the European Commissions's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. The idea of establishing twinning projects will now be implemented with the approval of Dr. Steve Morgan-Jones of two Agricultural Bioproducts Innovation Program (ABIP) projects whose principal investigators are Serge Laberge and Helen Tai. The twinning of projects is flexible, simple and is gaining momentum with the willingness of other countries to cooperate.

Photo: Management Team of the European Commission-AAFC Bilateral Meeting

Contact: Yvon Martel

Universities and Government Research Organisations Meet at the Fourth China-Canada Agri-Science Forum

The deans of the Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary along with representatives of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada met with Chinese counterparts in Wuhan, China, on 3-4 November 2008. China's interest in working with Canada in high level scientific training is real and increasing. Chinese universities and public organizations have the funding required to send Ph.D. students and scientists to Canada to enhance the scientific cooperation. Actually, in AAFC alone, China has already sent and covered the scholarship of some 100 Ph.D. students over the last three years and this will continue. Canada is not the only country interested in scientific cooperation with

China. The United Kingdom, for example, just opened an office in China to foster and develop scientific cooperation using different programs and funding mechanisms.

Photo: Yvon Martel addressing the Fourth China-Canada Agri-Science Forum Participants

Contact: Yvon Martel

Canada Participates in the 15th China Agricultural High-Tech Fair in Yangling with International Science and Technology Partnerships Canada (ISTPCanada), Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF) and Industry

In 2006, Canada was the first international participant to be highlighted at the China Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair (CAF), followed in 2007 by Australia. This year, Israel was the featured guest from November 5-9, 2008. This provided the opportunity for a tri-lateral round table discussion between China, Israel and Canada senior managers on agri-innovation cooperation. Some 17 Canadian companies participated in the partnering meetings and the Canadian seminar entitled "China-Canada-Israel Partnership on Agricultural Technology and Commercialization Collaboration". Israel came with a very important delegation including Ms. Yael Sha'altieli, Director General, Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and H.E. Mr. Amos Nadai, Israeli Ambassador to China, 20 industrial entrepreneurs and 12 scientists. This year, Mrs Stacy Chew from the International Science and Technology Partnerships Canada (ISTPCanada) and Mr. Les Abelson from the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF) took the lead and, with the help of Mr. Shan He, ISCB, AAFC, organized a very successful Canadian technology and commercial mission to the Fair. The Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University in Yangling hosted the 2008 Yangling International Agricultural Science Forum involving United Kingdom, Israeli, Canadian and Chinese scientists and managers, on the theme of Circular Agriculture. The Forum was organized by China's Ministry of Education, the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs and the Shaanxi Provincial Government. About 50 foreign participants from the United Kingdom, Israel, Canada, Australia and the United-States made this event a truly international discussion. The first such forum in 2006 featured Canada and the event has since grown significantly.

Photo: Les Abelson, Stacy Chew, Yvon Martel, Johanne Boisvert, Yi Fang, and Shan He

Contact: Shan He

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is Promoting Scientific Cooperation with South America

On November 10, 2008, Yvon Martel and Brad Fraleigh from the International Scientific Cooperation Bureau (ISCB) had the pleasure of greeting Mr. Chris Hansen, Deputy Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Mr. Michael Bedova, representative for IICA in Canada and Mrs Emilie Bergeron, IICA-Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to further discuss possible avenues for scientific cooperation between Canada and South America. Already, countries such as Chile have expressed an interest in developing scientific cooperation with Canada and IICA can provide the lead to enhance scientific cooperation on agricultural priorities important to both Canada and South America.

Photo: Michael Bedoya, Chris Hansen, Brad Fraleigh, Yvon Martel and Émilie Bergeron

Contact: Yvon Martel

Call for Research Proposals to the 2009-2012 Canada-Israel Program is Launched

The Canada-Israel Cooperation in Agricultural Research Program 2009-2012 (Canada-Israel Program) is now calling for research proposal submissions. All the information is available at the *BARD website*.

For this Call, priority areas are: animal production, water management and food for health. A proposal must include 3 principal investigators: one AAFC scientist, one university professor (eligible for NSERC funding) and one Israel scientist (eligible for BARD funding). Maximum total budget for 3 years is $300 000 Can. Submission date through BARD website is February 16, 2009. Proposals must be approved by the Science directors before submission. The Canada-Israel Program is the result of a joint initiative between AAFC, NSERC, BARD and the Israel Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Contact: Johanne Boisvert

The Robert S. McNamara Fellowships Program Helps Attract Best Minds to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

The Robert S. McNamara Fellowships Program provides support to young researchers preparing a doctoral thesis and working in academic and research institutions from eligible countries. Research grants cover residence costs for a 5 to 10 month period in a renowned university or research center. Fellows are expected to advance their research work mainly by using the facilities and resources provided by the host institution and by interacting with peers. Only lecturers and researchers from eligible countries working on their doctoral thesis can apply for the fellowship. Candidates should be under 45 years of age, and have completed all course work or exams required for their doctoral program.

For more information *World Bank Organisation: Scholarships*

Contact: Kian Fadaie

Successful Transfer of Canadian Technology in Lithuania

Last August, Caldwell Bio Fermentation Canada Inc. and Vitality Food officially signed a confidentiality agreement and a commercialization contract which provided opportunities through a sub-contract to a third Lithuanian company. Dr. Tony Savard, an AAFC research scientist and microbiologist specializing in food fermentation processes, worked in Riga, Lithuania from September 4th to 7th performing the transfer of a fermentation technology using a mixed lactic starter on two tons of vegetables. In two days, the factory reached a production capacity of one ton per hour. Satisfied with the quality of the technological transfer and with the resulting yield, Stranda Baltic put in a request to AAFC for training an international specialist, and is currently discussing an order of 200 to 400 tons for 2009. The first tons produced are undergoing a market appraisal and many wholesalers in and around Riga have shown a particular interest in marketing the fermented vegetables.

Contact: Clélia Martres

Potato-based Biorefineries - A France-Canada Opportunity for Networking

On October 14 and 15, 2008, French representatives of the Université de Picardie Jules Verne (UPJV), CoDEM, the Comité Nord Plants de Pommes de Terre and the Pôle de Compétitivité Industries AgroRessources met with officials from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the Government of New Brunswick and Canada's potato industry. The meeting was held at AAFC's Potato Research Centre in Fredericton, New Brunswick, and was organized by Philippe Giordanengo of the UPJV and Yvan Pelletier of AAFC. It laid the groundwork for a transatlantic network aimed at developing pre-competitive research and development projects on potato-based refineries. This initiative, led by these two researchers from France and Canada who have collaborated on various projects for a number of years, has made it possible to identify many unifying themes (including biopesticides, potatoes as a healthy food choice, and bioplastics) that will be addressed through design stage projects to be carried out jointly by France and Canada.

This meeting coinciding with the United Nations International Year of the Potato represents a first step toward achieving a sustainable process for mobilizing research and development programs relating to the internationalization of BioPom* dynamics. The idea is to promote the industry's development through scientific and technical innovation and to ensure French and Canadian partners play a role at the international level. (Adapted from a Press Release by Philippe Giordanengo)

Photo: Philippe Giordanengo; Eric Gontier; Michèle T'Kint; Anne Ponce De Leon; Christophe Luguel

Contact: Yvan Pelletier

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Contributes to Ecological Agriculture in North-West of China

AAFC is proud of hosting scientists and students from all over the world. It is not only contributing to enrich its own scientific capacity but also contributing to allow its scientists to work on major

issues of worldwide interest and concern.

For example, over the last decades, Lanzhou University, one of the most significant ecology research centers in China has conducted several ecological agricultural programs on the world's biggest loess plateau where ecological problems stemming from drought, desertification, salinity and alkalinity are still major obstacles for agricultural sustainability and socio-economic development. Taking advantage of the internship opportunity in AAFC labs, and of a scholarship provided by China's Ministry of Education, Dr. You-Cai Xiong, a full rank Professor at Lanzhou University, spent the last year at the Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Center (ECORC), AAFC, as a visiting scientist, working with Dr. Bao-Luo Ma, to conduct greenhouse and field experiments to characterize physiological and morphological traits related to drought tolerance among various oat cultivars and different-ploidy wheat species (at both Lanzhou University and ECORC) and to the role of oats in preventing soil and water losses in the Dingxi and Qingyang regions of Northwestern China. Two scientific publications are expected soon from that work.

Dr Xiong has brought an innovative approach to AAFC in using an ecological perspective. Building on the expertise at AAFC, he has been able to prepare a collaborative project proposal that will be submitted to the Science and Technology Bureau of the Chinese government for funding in the area of saline and alkaline soils management. He has since returned to China, buoyed by this enhanced cooperation, and confident of making substantial progress of mutual benefit to Canada and China.

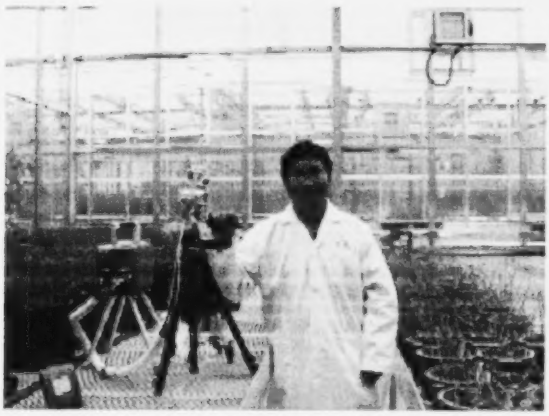


Photo: You-Cai Xiong in ECORC's greenhouses

Contact: Bao-Luo Ma

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